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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/575,137	05/23/2000	Kia Silverbrook	PP13US	9199

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SILVERBROOK RESEARCH PTY LTD
393 DARLING STREET
BALMAIN, 2041
AUSTRALIA

EXAMINER

HERNANDEZ, NELSON D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/575,137

Applicant(s)

SILVERBROOK ET AL.

Examiner

Nelson D. Hernandez

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2004.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-15 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 May 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

1. Terminal Disclaimer filed on May 28, 2004 to obviate the provisional Double Patenting rejection over pending second Application 10/636,276 is acknowledged.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims **1- 5, 8 and 12-14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruichi, US Patent 5,469,211 in view of Ohki, US 2002/0001032 A1.

Regarding claim **1**, Maruichi discloses a timer module (Figs. 1: 10 and 2: 10) comprising: a body; control means (Fig. 1: S1, S2 and S3) within said body that automates the capture of multiple images by a camera module (Figs. 1: 1, 2: 1), the capture of each image being separated by specific time interval (Col. 3, lines 20-25); connection means (Fig. 1: 10a and 10b) incorporated in said body for connecting said timer module to connections (Fig. 1: 6, 7 for power and 16 for communication) providing

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power and data between said timer module and said camera module (Col. 2, line 51 – col. 3, line 33).

Maruichi does not teach the connection means for providing power and data between said timer module and said camera module as a bus and that said bus is further connectable to at least a printer module.

However, Ohki teaches a portable computer system (Fig. 1: 1) coupled to a GPS (Global Positioning System) adapter (Fig. 1: 30), a digital camera (Fig. 1: 20), a compact printer (Fig. 1: 40) and a memory (Fig. 1: 50) by using bus connectors (Fig. 1: 8, 9 and 10) to control the operation of said coupled devices, wherein said bus provides power and data between the computer system and the other devices. The computer system in Ohki teaches that the bus (Fig. 1: 8) for providing power and data between said portable computer module and said camera module is further connectable to said printer module (see printer bus in fig. 1) as shown in fig. 1 (Page 3, ¶0033 - ¶0036 and page 4, ¶0048).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Maruichi and Ohki as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connection means for connecting the timer module to the camera in Maruichi by having said timer having a bus incorporating the separate connections for providing power and data between said timer module and said camera module. Doing so would allow the connection provide data and power between the camera and the timer module and also improve the ability of connecting said timer module to different

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devices using the bus connection standard so the timer module can send control signals to the camera module.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Maruichi in view of Ohki teaches that the control means automates storage of images one memory module (a tape cassette inside the camera module) (See Maruichi, col. 2, line 35 – col. 3, line 33) in a memory module connected to a bus (See Ohki, portable computer system in fig. 1: 1 coupled to a memory in fig. 1: 50 by using bus connector in fig. 1: 9; page 3, ¶ 0036).

Regarding claim 3, Maruichi discloses two connection means incorporated in the body, at least one connection means connecting the timer module (Figs. 1: 10 and 2: 10) to at least said camera module (Figs. 1: 1, 2: 1) and one memory module (a tape cassette for recording the image taken by said camera module) (Col. 2, line 35 – col. 3, line 33).

Regarding claim 4, Maruichi discloses the timer module having two or more connection means incorporated in said body including a first connection means (metal plates in front not shown) connectable to said camera module and second connections means (Fig. 1, items 18 and 19) connectable to further modules in a stackable manner (col. 2, line 47 – col. 3, line 8 and col. 3, lines 34-46).

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Maruichi in view of Ohki teaches two connection means incorporated in the body, at least one connection means connecting the timer module (Figs. 1: 10 and 2: 10 in Maruichi) to the camera module (Figs. 1: 1, 2: 1 in Maruichi) and one battery module (Fig. 1: 20 in Maruichi) (Col. 2, line 35 – col. 3, line 33) for a compact printer system (See fig. 1 in Ohki).

Regarding claim **8**, Maruichi discloses the control means as an application specific integrated circuit comprising a micro-controller (Fig. 3: 15). A clock is necessitated in the controller of the timer module to cause the camera to record at predetermined time intervals (col. 2, line 47 – col. 3, line 8 and col. 3, lines 34-46).

Regarding claim **12**, Maruichi discloses a selection of buttons to choose from a selection of units of time intervals expressed as fraction of time, wherein switch S1 is used for selecting a time interval for every 1/3 minutes, S2 for 1/10 minutes and S3 for 1/30 minutes, (Fig. 3: S1, S2 and S3) (Col. 3, lines 20-25).

Regarding claim **13**, Maruichi discloses a units button (Figs. 1 and 3, items S1, S2 and S3) to select a number of units of the time interval (Col. 3, lines 9-33).

Regarding claim **14**, Maruichi discloses a start/stop button to start and stop a countdown of at least one said specific time intervals (Col. 3, lines 9-33).

5. Claim **6** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruichi, US Patent 5,469,211 in view of Ohki, US 2002/0001032 A1 and further in view of Matsumura, US Patent 5,040,006.

Regarding claim **6**, the combination of Maruichi in view of Ohki teach a timer module for selecting a time interval for capturing images at said time interval but do not teach a LCD being connected to the control means for providing information about the time intervals.

However, Matsumura teaches an interval shootable camera (Fig. 1) having a monitor LCD (Fig. 1: 10) for displaying information about the time intervals between

each release signal as a countdown in order to take an image at a predetermined time interval (Col. 3, lines 20-25).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Maruichi in view of Ohki and further in view of Matsumura as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the time module by incorporating a LCD to display the information about the time interval selected for capture images separated by a specific time interval. Doing so would give the user a feedback of the time remaining before capturing an image using the interval capture mode.

6. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruichi, US Patent 5,469,211 in view of Ohki, US 2002/0001032 A1 and further in view of Suda, US 2002/0164147 A1.

Regarding claim 9, the combination of Maruichi in view of Ohki does not teach that the control means comprises information about an image number and a target memory module for storage the captured images.

However, Suda discloses an image recording apparatus (Fig. 1: 101) wherein a microcomputer (Fig. 1: 104) sets and control the image numbers to the images taken, wherein each number is incremented by one and recorded in memory (fig. 1: 111) to each new image taken (Page 3, ¶ 0052 - ¶ 0055).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Maruichi in view of Ohki and further in view of Suda as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the timer module by using a microcomputer having information about an image number and a target memory module

for storage the captured images. Doing so would enable the timer module to record the images with number so as to make easier for the user to find an image of interest.

7. Claims **10** and **11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruichi, US Patent 5,469,211 and Ohki, US 2002/0001032 A1 and further in view of Riches, US Patent 4,550,967.

Regarding claims **10** and **11**, the combination of Maruichi in view of Ohki discloses connection means (Maruichi, fig. 1, items 10a, 10b, 17a and 17b) providing physical connection between the timer module and the camera. The combination of Maruichi in view of Ohki does not teach the connection means comprising a bayonet fitting type connection as claimed.

However, Riches teaches an electrical connector comprising a male bayonet fitting (Fig. 1, item 10) and a female bayonet fitting (Fig. 1, item 30) to establish physical and electrical connection between two devices (Col. 2, line 47 – col. 3, line 7).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Maruichi in view of Ohki and further in view of Riches, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the connection means by using a bayonet type connector to establish connection between the timer module and the camera. Doing so would help secure in place the timer module to the camera module.

8. Claim **15** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruichi, US Patent 5,469,211 and Ohki, US 2002/0001032 A1 and further in view of Tomaszewski, US 2001/0001563 A1.

Regarding claim **15**, the combination of Maruichi in view of Ohki does not teach that the bus for connecting the timer to the camera is a serial bus.

However, Tomaszewski teaches a portable camera (Fig. 1: 104) coupled to a computer (Fig. 1: 100) by using a Universal Serial Bus (USB) (Fig. 1: 106, 107 and 108), so when the camera is connected to the computer, automatically changes the setting from portable to a computer operated mode based on a detection of a signal indicating that the camera is connected to the computer, wherein the USB provides power and data between the camera and the computer (Page 1, ¶0017, ¶0018 and ¶0021).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Maruichi in view of Ohki and further in view of Tomaszewski as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connection means for connecting the timer module to the camera by using a serial bus for providing power and data between said timer module and said camera module. Doing so would allow the connection provide data and power between the camera and the timer module in response to a connection detection of said devices, also would help with compatibility issues with different devices increasing the portability of the system.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claim **7** is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art of records, neither anticipates nor renders obvious the following limitations as claimed: a timer module connected to a

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camera module wherein said timer module comprises a LCD capable of displaying a plurality of icons indicative of a unit of time and a proportion of said time interval elapsed until next capture time.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nelson D. Hernandez whose telephone number is (703) 305-8717. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R. Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929. The fax phone


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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nelson D. Hernandez
Examiner
Art Unit 2612

NDHH
November 22, 2004


AUNG MOE
PRIMARY EXAMINER